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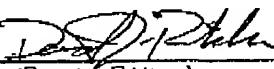
JUN 21 2004

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Dated: June 21, 2004

Signature:


(David J. Rikkers)

Docket No.: HHI-031USRCE
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Wilhelm Ardes

Application No.: 09/890,588

Art Unit: 1723

Filed: November 21, 2001

Examiner: Savage, Matthew O.

For: FLUID FILTER WITH REMOVABLE
CENTRAL COMPONENT WITH
ADDITIONAL RETAINER

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is filed herewith. In response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2004, finally rejecting claims 1 and 2, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: